

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 62ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST . . . LET ME SAY THAT IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 62ND TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

I KNOW THAT THERE ARE CYNICS WHO WILL TELL YOU THAT WE SPENT 144 DAYS IN AUSTIN AND DID NOT ACCOMPLISH A THING.

THAT IS FAR FROM TRUE. YES . . . I KNOW THAT OUR REGULAR AND ONE CALLED SESSION IN AUSTIN WERE NOT IDEAL, BUT . . . THEN . . . WHAT IS IDEAL!

THE 62ND TEXAS LEGISLATURE WAS THE FIRST TO TACKLE THE CHALLENGES OF THE '70'S. AND THE CHALLENGES WERE MANY.

I FEEL THAT AFTER THE LONG HOURS OF STUDY AND DEBATE WE CAME UP WITH A NUMBER OF MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS OF NEW LEGISLATION FOR OUR GROWING STATE.

I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY DISCUSS SOME OF THOSE PROGRAMS WITH YOU . . . AND TO LEAVE YOU WITH A CHALLENGE. THAT CHALLENGE IS TO EVALUATE THIS WORK YOURSELF , , , AND THEN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER THE EFFORTS OF YOUR LEGISLATURE WERE FRUITFUL OR IN VAIN.

WHEN THE BROAD SCOPE OF OUR WORK IS EVALUATED IN AN UNBIASED LIGHT . . . I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THE 62ND LEGISLATURE WAS A PRODUCTIVE ONE.

I WOULD LIKE TO DIGRESS A MOMENT FROM THE ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE MAGNITUDE OF WORK THAT WAS FACED BY YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS.

MORE THAN 3,000 BILLS AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SESSIONS JUST COMPLETED.

THE HOUSE ALONE SAW THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE THAN 1,800 BILLS. MORE THAN 1,000 MEASURES WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE.

WHEN THE SESSION WAS FINALLY GAVELED TO A CLOSE . . . THE HOUSE HAD PASSED MORE THAN 600 MEASURES AND THE SENATE HAD APPROVED MORE THAN 300.

AND BEFORE FINAL ENACTMENT . . . EACH OF THOSE MEASURES--ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS THAT DID NOT PASS--RECEIVED THOROUGH COMMITTEE STUDY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAPITOL AND WAS SUBJECTED TO ANALYTICAL SCRUTINY AND TESTING DEBATE.

THE CHALLENGE WAS GREAT AND THE TASK A MAJOR ONE. THE PROBLEMS WE FACED WERE AS MUCH YOURS AS OURS. FOR UNLESS THE PROBLEMS ARE MET AND THE CHALLENGES ANSWERED . . . TEXAS CANNOT CONTINUE TO PROGRESS AT THE SAME RATE THAT HAS ALREADY MADE OUR FINE STATE ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE NATION.

OF COURSE THE MEDIA--NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, TELEVISION--KEPT YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR WORK ON THE MAJOR BILLS OF THE SESSION. BILLS LIKE STATE APPROPRIATIONS . . . NEW TAXATION . . . REAPPORTIONMENT . . . LIQUOR BY THE DRINK . . . CAPTURE BROAD INTEREST.

BUT BEFORE I DISCUSS SUCH PIECES OF MAJOR LEGISLATION, I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO REMIND YOU OF THE SO-CALLED "LITTLE" BILLS--THE BILLS DESIGNED FOR ONE SPECIFIC AREA OR ONE SPECIFIC NEED.

THESE BILLS ARE SCHEDULED ON WHAT IS KNOWN AS A LOCAL CALENDAR. MOST OF THEM USUALLY SAIL THROUGH EASILY TO FINAL PASSAGE. THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF MUCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR STATE.

LOCAL BILLS BRING SALARY INCREASES TO WORTHY COUNTY AND DISTRICT EMPLOYEES. THEY CREATE WATER AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS. THEY BRING REFORMS TO LOCAL GAME AND FISH REGULATIONS. IN COUNTLESS OTHER WAYS THEY TOUCH OUR LIVES AND IMPROVE OUR SOCIETY.

THEY ARE MANY AND LOCAL IN NATURE SO YOU HEAR LITTLE ABOUT THEM FROM THE MEDIA WHICH ARE HEAVILY BURDENED WITH COVERAGE OF THE MAJOR LEGISLATION. BUT THE TIME SPENT ON THESE MEASURES IS SPENT WISELY. FOR CHANGE--NO MATTER HOW SMALL--IF IT IS FOR THE GOOD, THEN IT IS FOR THE PROGRESS OF OUR STATE.

IN THE FIELD OF MAJOR LEGISLATION . . . I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD OF ONE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY MEMORY . . . YOUR LAWMAKERS KNUCKLED DOWN AND PASSED A STATE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, AND THE NECESSARY TAXATION TO BACK IT UP, WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO THE HEATED SPECIAL SESSION TACTICS OF THE PAST.

BOTH OF THOSE BILLS WERE RECORD-BREAKING IN SIZE. THEY WON'T PLEASE EVERYONE . . . BUT THE CONSENSUS OF THE MAJORITY OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS WAS THAT THEY WERE BILLS WE CAN ALL LIVE WITH, AND THEY WILL GET THE JOB DONE . . . EVEN IF, IN SOME CASES, IT IS DONE PAINFULLY.

THE NEW STATE BUDGET BILL CALLS FOR SPENDING MORE THAN
7-BILLION-DOLLARS DURING THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS.

THAT IS A STAGGERING SUM . . . AND I KNOW THAT MANY OF
YOU ARE ASKING YOURSELVES: "WHERE IS ALL THIS SPENDING GOING TO
STOP?"

I WISH I HAD THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION . . . BUT I
MUST CANDIDLY ADMIT THAT I DO NOT.

AS LONG AS OUR STATE CONTINUES TO GROW . . . AS LONG AS
THE PEOPLE DEMAND MORE AND EXPANDED SERVICES . . . AND AS LONG AS THE
DOLLAR CONTINUES TO DEFLATE . . . WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SPEND MORE
MONEY.

THE FINAL ANSWER LIES WITH THE TIMES . . . AND LEGISLATURES
OF THE FUTURE.

EVEN THE HUGE 7-BILLION-DOLLAR BILL WE JUST PASSED WILL
NOT COVER OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS UNLESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO
TAKE OVER THE WELFARE PROBLEMS FACED BY ALL 50 STATES. RIGHT NOW . . .
SIGNS ARE NOT GOOD THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN.

SO . . . WE MAY HAVE TO RETURN IN SPECIAL SESSION BEFORE
THE REGULAR SESSION OF 1973 TO ENACT A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO COVER
THE SECOND YEAR OF WELFARE SPENDING FOR THIS CURRENT BIENNIUM.

THE BUDGET BILL WE JUST PASSED CONTAINED ONLY A ONE-YEAR APPROPRIATION FOR WELFARE.

GOVERNOR PRESTON SMITH HAS INDICATED HE WILL CALL A SPECIAL SESSION . . . PROBABLY BEFORE NEXT SPRING'S PRIMARY ELECTIONS . . . TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF WELFARE IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECLINES TO TAKE OVER THAT CHORE.

EARLY ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO FIND AN ADDITIONAL 3-HUNDRED-MILLION-DOLLARS IN NEW TAXES TO COVER THE WELFARE COSTS FOR ONE YEAR.

WELFARE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF THE NEW SPENDING THAT REQUIRED A RECORD 7-HUNDRED-MILLION-DOLLAR TAX BILL THIS YEAR. THAT MONEY IS NEEDED JUST TO KEEP OUR STATE IN THE BLACK FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THAT RECORD-BREAKING APPROPRIATIONS BILL WERE NEW FUNDS FOR PUBLIC AND MENTAL HEALTH . . . VOCATIONAL TRAINING . . . AND MODEST SALARY INCREASES FOR THE STATE'S 60-THOUSAND EMPLOYEES.

YES . . . IT IS CERTAINLY A BIG BUDGET . . . BUT WE ARE A BIG AND EXPANDING STATE . . . AND LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE, IT COSTS MONEY TO KEEP IT OPERATING EFFICIENTLY.

WHERE IS THAT 7-HUNDRED-MILLION-DOLLARS IN NEW TAXATION COMING FROM?

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS SIMPLE, BUT PAINFUL. IT IS GOING TO COME MOSTLY FROM YOU AND ME . . . THE CONSUMERS OF THIS STATE.

THE NEW TAX BILLS MEAN WE WILL ALL BE PAYING MORE FOR BEER, WHISKEY, CARS, CIGARETS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER ITEMS.

TO MEET THE BUDGET DEMANDS OF THE STATE . . . THE 62ND LEGISLATURE VOTED TO INCREASE THE STATE SALES TAX TO 4 PER CENT. THE LEVY ON A PACKAGE OF CIGARETS WAS INCREASED 3 CENTS . . . AND THE EXCISE TAX ON AUTOMOBILES WAS RAISED FROM 3 TO 4 PER CENT TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE SALES TAX. THE TAX ON A KEG OF BEER WAS RAISED TO \$5. PASSAGE OF THE LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK BILL BROUGHT ON THE PASSAGE OF A NUMBER OF NEW LIQUOR TAXES DESIGNED TO RAISE MORE THAN \$30 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER . . . BUSINESS WAS SOCKED WITH A CORPORATION FRANCHISE TAX INCREASE OF \$1.25 PER \$1,000 OF ASSETS.

IT IS NOT EASY TO LEGISLATE NEW TAXATION. SOMEBODY ALWAYS MUST PAY. AND WITH THE MONEY SITUATION THE WAY IT IS . . . EVERY LITTLE BIT IS BOUND TO HURT SOME.

BUT WE CANNOT SPEND MONEY IF WE DON'T RAISE IT IN SOME FORM OF TAXATION.

LET ME GIVE YOU A BRIEF IDEA OF HOW OUR NEW BUDGET IS DIVIDED.

MORE THAN 20 PER CENT GOES FOR WELFARE. ANOTHER 48 PER CENT IS ALLOTTED FOR EDUCATION. THE HIGHWAY PROGRAM RECEIVES ANOTHER 17 PER CENT. ALMOST 5 PER CENT GOES FOR HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 2 PER CENT. SEVEN PER CENT IS SPENT ON ALL OTHER STATE SERVICES.

BESIDES NEW TAXES AND THE STATE BUDGET . . . YOUR LAWMAKERS HAD PLENTY MORE THORNY PROBLEMS TO HANDLE.

LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING . . . BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE 1970 CENSUS . . . WAS A MAJOR TASK.

HOUSE REDISTRICTING WAS ACCOMPLISHED AFTER HEATED DEBATE. POPULATION SHIFTS FORCED A NUMBER OF INCUMBENT LEGISLATORS INTO THE SAME DISTRICTS. THE 63RD TEXAS LEGISLATURE WILL DEFINITELY HAVE A NEW LOOK.

THE SENATE WAS SO DIVIDED OVER ITS REDISTRICTING THAT IT FAILED TO FINISH THE JOB DURING THE REGULAR SESSION.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION FORBIDS THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE AND SENATE REDISTRICTING DURING A SPECIAL SESSION . . . SO REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE SENATE WILL NOW BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A FIVE-MEMBER LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING BOARD.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING WAS COMPLETED IN THE FOUR-DAY SPECIAL SESSION. THE NEW PLAN PUTS CONGRESSMEN GRAHAM PURCELL AND BOB PRICE IN THE SAME PANHANDLE AND RED RIVER AREA DISTRICT. CONGRESSMAN WRIGHT PATMAN . . . THE DEAN OF THE TEXAS DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON . . . HAD HIS DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REDRAWN TO INCLUDE SOME OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN DOWDY'S AREA. THE REST OF REPRESENTATIVE DOWDY'S COUNTIES WENT INTO A NEWLY FORMED DISTRICT.

TEXAS GAINED ONE CONGRESSIONAL SEAT--FROM 23 TO 24--UNDER THE 1970 CENSUS. THAT NEW SEAT PLUS THE PAIRED INCUMBENTS LET THE LEGISLATURE AWARD NEW DISTRICTS . . . WITHOUT INCUMBENTS . . . TO DALLAS-FORT WORTH, HOUSTON AND DEEP EAST TEXAS.

HOWEVER . . . THERE IS TALK THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN WILL BE CHALLENGED IN COURT BECAUSE . . . SOME PERSONS FEEL . . . IT SHORT-CHANGED URBAN AREAS. THE HOUSE

REDISTRICTING MEASURE HAS ALREADY BECOME THE TARGET TO TWO LEGAL CHALLENGES--ONE BY A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND ANOTHER BY THE STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

ANOTHER MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE 62ND TEXAS LEGISLATURE WAS THE PASSAGE OF THE STATE'S FIRST LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK BILL SINCE THE DAYS BEFORE THE VOLSTEAD ACT.

THE ISSUE WAS A VERY EMOTIONAL ONE . . . BUT A MAJORITY OF BOTH CHAMBERS FELT THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS HAD SPOKEN MOST CLEARLY ON THE QUESTION DURING THE LAST CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AND THE BILL WAS PASSED.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR SOME SWEEPING CHANGES IN OUR CURRENT LIQUOR LAWS, AND PROVIDES FOR THE SALE OF MIXED DRINKS ON A LOCAL OPTION BASIS JUST AS WE HAVE HAD IN THE PAST FOR THE SALE OF BEER AND WINE. MANY AREAS OF THE STATE HAVE ALREADY BEEN GRANTED MIXED DRINK PERMITS FOLLOWING LOCAL APPROVAL IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON MAY 18TH.

AND . . . AS I MENTIONED EARLIER . . . THE LEGISLATURE KEPT ITS PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE BY USING THE MIXED DRINK SITUATION AS A MEANS OF RAISING BADLY NEEDED REVENUE. A 10 PER CENT TAX WAS LEVIED ON MIXED DRINKS, ICE AND MIXES SOLD BY BARS, RESTAURANTS AND PRIVATE CLUBS, AND A SUBSTANTIAL LICENSING FEE WAS PLACED UPON THE HOLDERS OF MIXED DRINK PERMITS.

MUCH WAS SAID DURING THE SESSION ABOUT ETHICS IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

A PROPOSED CODE OF ETHICS WAS SUBMITTED TO YOU VOTERS AS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON MAY 18TH. AS YOU KNOW . . . THE MEASURE WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE MANY PERSONS OBJECTED TO A PROVISION WHICH WOULD HAVE REMOVED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CEILING ON LEGISLATIVE PAY AND LEFT THE DETERMINATION OF SALARY UP TO A SPECIAL COMMISSION.

HOWEVER . . . BEFORE THE SESSION ENDED, ANOTHER ETHICS MEASURE WAS ENACTED INTO LAW AND WILL BE A GUIDE FOR CONDUCT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THE QUESTION OF A LEGISLATIVE PAY INCREASE IS BEING RETURNED TO THE VOTERS. THE NOVEMBER, 1972 BALLOT WILL INCLUDE A PROPOSAL TO RAISE LEGISLATIVE PAY FROM \$4,800 A YEAR TO \$8,400.

ALSO ON THAT BALLOT WILL BE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE TERMS FOR GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND SOME OTHER STATE OFFICIALS FROM TWO TO FOUR YEARS AND TO GRANT THE HOUSE SPEAKER AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ANNUAL SALARIES OF \$22,500.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN AMENDED 201 TIMES SINCE IT WAS FIRST RATIFIED IN 1876. ALSO IN NOVEMBER OF 1972 YOU VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO DECIDE WHETHER THE 63RD TEXAS LEGISLATURE SHOULD

ALSO SIT AS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO WRITE A MODERN FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT FOR OUR STATE AND SUBMIT IT TO THE PEOPLE FOR APPROVAL.

THE CHALLENGES TO THE 62ND LEGISLATURE WERE MANY, AND MUCH MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION WAS PASSED. I AM SORRY THAT TIME DOES NOT PERMIT A DETAILED CATALOGING OF ALL OF THE KEY MEASURES THAT WERE ENACTED.

BUT BEFORE I CONCLUDE MY REMARKS . . . I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT STRIDES WERE MADE TOWARD A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STATE . . . THAT WE TOOK ACTION DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE RISING COSTS OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE . . . MEASURES WERE ENACTED TO MAKE OUR HIGHWAYS AND CITIES SAFER PLACES TO DRIVE AND LIVE.

PROGRESS . . . I BELIEVE . . . WAS MADE ON MANY FRONTS.

THERE IS ONE OTHER MATTER I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

THOUSANDS OF WORDS WERE PRINTED AND BROADCAST ABOUT DISSENSION IN THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

VARIOUS FACTIONS WERE FORMED IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE.

TERMS LIKE THE "SPEAKER'S TEAM," THE "DIRTY THIRTY,"
"SENATE LIBERALS," AND "CONSERVATIVE COALITION" GAINED WIDE USAGE
AND CAPTURED MANY GLARING BLACK HEADLINES.

I WOULD NOT TRY TO KID YOU BY TELLING YOU THAT THIS WAS
JUST OVER-EMPHASIS BY THE PRESS, AND THAT EVERYTHING WAS PEACHES
AND CREAM DURING THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHENEVER YOU HAVE 181 PERSONS GUIDING ANYTHING . . . YOU
ARE BOUND TO HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS WITH THE 62ND LEGISLATURE. THE
DEBATE WAS HOT AND SOMETIMES BITTER. TEMPERS SOMETIMES FRAYED AND
EXPLODED. OFTEN THE BATTLE LINES WERE CLEARLY DRAWN. BUT IN THE
END A JOB WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

YES . . . THERE WAS FACTIONALISM DURING THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHO CAN SAY WHICH SIDE OR SIDES WERE RIGHT AND WHICH
GROUPS WERE WRONG?

YOU THE PEOPLE . . . THE VOTERS OF TEXAS . . . HAVE
THE ONLY ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION . . . FOR IT IS YOU WHO ELECT YOUR
REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN AUSTIN.

YOUR FEELINGS . . . I AM SURE . . . WILL BE FELT IN THE
PRIMARIES AND GENERAL ELECTION OF 1972.

BUT I WANT TO SAY THAT I DON'T BELIEVE FACTIONALISM OR
TAKING STRONG SIDES IS REALLY ALL BAD. AS LONG AS WE HAVE DEMOCRACY
WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISSENT. I WOULD HATE TO SEE ANY LEGISLATURE . .
BUT ESPECIALLY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE . . . BECOME A RUBBER STAMP TO
ANY PROGRAM OR CREED.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE DISSENT . . . GOOD OR BAD . . . I
KNOW WE STILL HAVE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY . . . AND I AM PROUD TO
BE A PART OF THAT GREAT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

I THANK YOU.